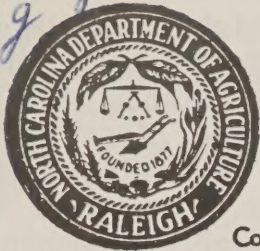
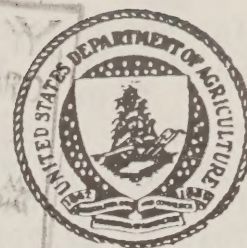


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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

NO. 188

RALEIGH, N. C.

JULY 15, 1955

N. C. COTTON ACREAGE LOWEST SINCE 1871

The area of cotton in cultivation on July 1 in North Carolina was estimated at 475,000 acres. Such an acreage is 15 percent below the 557,000 acres for last year and 33 percent below the 10-year (1944-53) average of 711,000 acres. Assuming 10-year average abandonment of 1.3 percent, the area for harvest this year is calculated at 469,000 acres. This would be the smallest acreage of cotton harvested in North Carolina since 1871.

(See "COTTON" Page 2)

PROSPECTIVE N. C. CORN PRODUCTION HIGHEST SINCE 1950

Reported condition from growers as of July 1, indicates a production of 65,696,000 bushels of corn. If realized, this will be the highest production for the state since 1951 when 67,611,000 bushels

(See "CORN" Page 3)

THREE ELECTIONS CALLED JULY 23

If you grow flue-cured tobacco or peanuts, draw a ring around July 23 on your calendar to remind you to go vote. Three referendums for farmers will be held that day:

1. On continuing flue-cured tobacco marketings quotas -- for one year or for three years.

2. On extending for three more years an assessment of 10 cents an acre to maintain the flue-cured export promotional program of tobacco Associates, Inc.

3. On increasing and continuing for three years the "Pennies to promote Peanuts" assessment. It is proposed to raise the assessment from one to two cents per 100 pounds of peanuts.

SECOND LARGEST TAR HEEL FLUE-CURED CROP IN PROSPECT

Based on reports from growers as of July 1, prospects are for a Tar Heel flue-cured crop of 958,900,000 pounds. Such a crop would be the second largest of record, being exceeded only by the 1951 crop of 978,375,000 pounds from 735,000 acres.

A crop of 958,900,000 pounds would be 69 million pounds or 8 percent above the 1954 flue-cured crop of 889,490,000 pounds. Prospective increased per-acre yields account for the larger crop this year, since the estimated North Carolina flue-cured acreage for harvest at 655,000 acres is 31,000 acres below last year. A flue-cured crop of 958,900,000 pounds would result in an average yield of 1,464 pounds per acre. This compares with the previous record flue-cured yield of 1,341 pounds set in 1950.

The 1955 flue-cured crop was transplanted to fields later than usual owing to freeze damage to plant beds on March 26. Cool weather and dry soils during the transplanting season increased resetting requirements and the crop started off much more irregular than usual. The crop made normal growth until the middle of June with no area of the State with soils sufficiently dry to approach droughty conditions. Rains which fell over most of the flue-cured area on June 19 were sufficient to "green up" lower leaves and delay harvesting. With the exception of parts of the Type 11 Belt, temperatures and rainfall during the last part of June were ideal for optimum plant growth and development. With favorable temperatures and almost ideal rainfall from the standpoint of amount and frequency, the crop made unusually fast growth the last half of June.

The yield and production forecast

(See "TOBACCO" page 2)

TOBACCO(Continued)

for North Carolina by flue-cured types, as of July 1, is as follows:

Type 11 (Middle and Old Belt): Type 11 production is estimated at 325,125,000 pounds from 255,000 acres for an average yield of 1,275 pounds. This is 27,205,000 pounds or 9 percent above production last year. As usual, the crop is less advanced than Types 12 and 13 and dry weather prior to July 1 over parts of this area slowed plant growth.

Type 12 (Eastern or New Bright Belt): Production of Type 12 tobacco (all produced in North Carolina) is estimated at 507,200,000 pounds from 317,000 acres for an average yield of 1,600 pounds per acre. This is the second highest production of record for Type 12, being exceeded only the record 1951 crop of 510,860,000 pounds. If current prospects materialize, the 1955 crop will exceed the 1954 crop of 477,620,000 pounds by 6 percent. The currently estimated yield of 1,600 pounds exceeds the previous record 1954 yield by 170 pounds.

Type 13 (Border Belt): Type 13 production in North Carolina is estimated at 126,575,000 pounds from 83,000 acres for an average yield of 1,525 pounds. This is the highest yield of record and second only to the 1951 record production of 127,420,000 pounds.

The total U. S. flue-cured crop is estimated at 1,412,478,000 pounds. This is 98,071,000 pounds or 7 percent more than the 1954 crop of 1,314,407,000 pounds.

Type 31 (Burley-Light Air-Cured): The current North Carolina burley crop is estimated at 20,085,000 pounds from 10,300 acres for an average yield of 1,950 pounds. This compares with production of 24,384,000 pounds and yield of 1,920 pounds last year.

JUNE EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Egg production during June 1955 is estimated at 127 million, 10 percent above the June 1954 production and 12 percent below May 1955 production of 145 million eggs. A decline from May to June is a usual trend.

Layers on N. C. farms during June 1955 was placed at 7,640,000 thousand, a decline of 342 thousand from May 1955 and 132 thousand above June 1954.

COTTON(Continued)

Cool days and nights throughout most of May and June have not been favorable to the cotton crop. Stands were reported to be spotted, and plant growth has been retarded by the below normal temperatures. However, the crop appeared to be making favorable response to warmer weather in late June and early July. Infestations of insects have been comparatively light.

The first production forecast of the 1955 season will be released on August 8.

Acreage of cotton in cultivation on July 1 for the Country as a whole was estimated at 17,096,000 acres -- 13.6 percent less than the 19,791,000 acres in cultivation on July 1 last year and 25 percent below the 10-year average of 22,763,000 acres.

COTTON REPORT

AS OF JULY 1, 1955

State	Average Aband. 1945-54*	Acreage in Cultivation July 1		
		Average 1944-53 (000)	1954 (000)	1955 (000)
	Percent	Acres	Acres	Acres
N. C.	1.3	711	557	475
S. C.	0.5	1,074	836	725
Ga.	0.8	1,330	1,039	885
Tenn.	1.4	767	657	580
Ala.	0.6	1,543	1,180	1,005
Miss.	2.3	2,435	2,001	1,730
Mo.	3.2	484	455	395
Ark.	2.5	2,018	1,721	1,475
La.	1.7	855	698	620
Okla.	5.9	1,226	976	845
Tex.	3.8	8,874	8,065	7,000
N. M.	2.5	217	210	185
Ariz.	0.4	356	430	355
Calif.	0.5	790	896	758
Others*	3.1	83	70	63
U. S.	2.7	22,763	19,791	17,096

* Sums of acreage for "Other States" rounded to thousands for inclusion in United totals.



CORN(Continued)

were produced. The 1955 forecast of 65,-696,000 bushels would be about 29 percent more production than the 50,784,000 bushels produced in the drought-stricken year 1954.

The prospective yield per acre for the 1955 crop is indicated at 32 bushels. If realized, the yield will be the second highest of record and the highest since 1950. The record yield of 33 bushels was set in 1950. The 1954 yield was 24.0 bushels per acre. The increased acreage planted with hybrid seed and generally favorable weather conditions are contributing factors for the near record yield. About 60 percent of this year's acreage was planted with hybrid seed, compared with 46.5 percent in 1954.

The corn acreage for harvest in 1955 is estimated to be 2,053,000 acres, which is 3 percent below the acreage harvested in 1954.

The state's corn crop is mostly in excellent condition and is in--or near--the tasseling and silking stage of maturity. To July 1, there has been sufficient moisture for a good growth and the color is extremely good in all districts excepting a few areas in the northern and central Piedmont districts. Stands are mostly good and, with another general rain, most of the acreage should come through with a much higher than average yield.

APPLE CROP NEAR FAILURE

The first forecast of the season for commercial apple production in North Carolina is for a crop of only 40,000 bushels -- approximately two percent as large as the 1,900,000 bushels harvested in 1954.

For all practical purposes this year's crop was completely destroyed by the severe freeze of late March. Reports from commercial producing areas indicate that later blooming varieties set a very light crop in some of the better protected orchards. In most of the orchards, however, trees were in full bloom, or buds were swollen at the time of the freeze. Losses in such cases were complete.

For the United States as a whole, production of commercial apples is forecast at 105,560,000 bushels -- only four percent below production of 109,512,000 produced in 1954.

HAY PROSPECTS ABOVE 1954

Based on condition reports from growers as of July 1 production from the 1955 hay crop is forecast at 1,111,000 tons from an estimated 1,099,000 acres for harvest. The above production, if realized, would be 3 percent above the short 1954 crop when 1,081,000 tons were produced from 1,130,000 acres. The all-hay yield of 1.01 tons per acre is about 5 percent above last year and about equals the 10-year average of 1.02 tons per acre.

Alfalfa and Clover-Timothy hay yield and production prospects are better than their final outcome last year although slightly below average. Lespedeza is the primary hay crop, with yield prospects poor and production is expected to be considerably below last year and the 10-year average. This crop was damaged by the severe drought of last fall and the freeze damage during late March. For soybeans and peanuts, stands and growth are about average. The harvesting of hays from small grains planted last fall and during the spring of 1955 is complete. Yields were higher than in 1954 and considerably above average.

BARLEY PRODUCTION DOWN

The 1955 North Carolina barley crop is forecast at 1,624,500 bushels. This is 313,500 bushels, or 16 percent below the record production of 1,938,000 bushels in 1954.

Growers are expected to harvest 57,000 acres in 1955. This is the same acreage as was harvested in 1954, but about 18,000 acres above average. The average yield per acre for 1955 is forecast at 28.5 bushels compared with 34.0 for 1954. The big decrease in average yield is attributed to the late March freeze damage and losses due to smut disease.

RYE PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

The State's 1955 rye crop is now estimated at 285,000 bushels. This compares with the 1954 crop of 270,000 bushels and the 1953 crop of 232,000 bushels. Yield per acre for this year is estimated at 15.0 bushels -- the same last year.

Growers are expected to harvest 19,000 acres for grain this year compared to 18,000 last year.

UNITED STATES

ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, JULY 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All.....	Bu.	84,675	79,875	80,765	36.4	37.1	42.7	3,080,115	2,964,639	3,449,667
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,942	38,636	33,891	18.0	20.5	19.6	867,390	790,737	663,043
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	67,656	53,712	47,376	17.1	18.1	18.2	1,154,073	969,781	860,331
Oats.....	Bu.	39,556	42,151	42,009	33.4	35.6	36.0	1,323,321	1,499,579	1,513,498
Barley.....	Bu.	10,329	12,994	14,099	25.9	28.5	27.3	266,918	370,126	384,397
Rye.....	Bu.	1,740	1,718	2,081	12.1	13.8	13.1	21,097	23,688	27,245
TOBACCO:										
Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	1,046.7	1,042.2	994.3	1,195	1,261	1,421	1,248,185	1,314,407	1,412,478
Burley.....	Lbs.	454.5	420.9	325.8	1,270	1,585	1,540	576,154	667,172	501,770
All Types.....	Lbs.	1,734.3	1,666.1	1,520.5	1,213	1,342	1,429	2,098,738	2,236,408	2,172,517
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	22,763	19,791	17,096	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghums, All.....	Bu.	13,283	17,828	21,400	213.1	252.8	277.3	401,146	356,031	400,335
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	1,967	1,408	1,444	94.3	86.5	101.2	46,951	29,880	34,273
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	496.5	345.5	338.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	13,740	18,753	19,860	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	11,987	17,037	18,397	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.	Lbs.	3,134	1,936	2,034	784	737	-	1,921,095	1,023,070	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed..	Lbs.	2,562	1,388	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HAY:										
Alfalfa.....	Tons	74,328	72,770	74,667	1.38	1.43	1.46	102,199	104,380	109,184
Clover & Timothy 2/...	Tons	16,685	22,996	25,082	2.21	2.15	2.12	36,890	49,328	53,282
Lespedeza.....	Tons	22,097	19,312	18,064	1.41	1.43	1.43	31,115	27,579	25,837
Pasture, Condition.....	%	6,343	3,702	4,307	1.04	.82	1.09	6,635	3,052	4,682
		-	-	-	-	-	-	84	78	83
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/68,767	4/61,316	4/48,479
Apples, Commercial 3/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/106,402	4/109,512	4/105,560
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/30,950	4/30,434	4/30,599
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/2,925	4/2,569	4/3,178

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1.

2/ Excludes Sweet Clover and Lespedeza Hay.

3/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to total production of apples in commercial apple areas of each State.

4/ For some States in certain years production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.

NORTH CAROLINA **ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, JULY 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS**

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All.....	Bu.	2, 204	2, 116	2, 053	28. 4	24. 0	32. 0	62, 641	50, 784	65, 696
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	410	338	324	17. 5	22. 0	21. 0	7, 178	7, 436	6, 804
Oats.....	Bu.	375	523	528	31. 1	39. 0	35. 0	11, 734	20, 397	18, 480
Barley.....	Bu.	38	57	57	28. 8	34. 0	28. 5	1, 108	1, 938	1, 624
Rye.....	Bu.	22	18	19	13. 0	15. 0	15. 0	274	270	285
TOBACCO: All.....	Lbs.	710. 2	698. 7	665. 3	1, 207	1, 308	1, 471	855, 264	913, 874	978, 985
Type 11.....	Lbs.	272. 0	266. 0	255. 0	1, 119	1, 120	1, 275	304, 066	297, 920	325, 125
Type 12.....	Lbs.	341. 8	334. 0	317. 0	1, 256	1, 430	1, 600	428, 016	477, 620	507, 200
Type 13.....	Lbs.	85. 2	86. 0	83. 0	1, 238	1, 325	1, 525	105, 346	113, 950	126, 575
All Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	699. 0	686. 0	655. 0	1, 204	1, 297	1, 464	837, 428	889, 490	958, 900
Type 31, Burley.....	Lbs.	11. 2	12. 7	10. 3	1, 598	1, 920	1, 950	17, 835	24, 384	20, 085
Cotton <u>1/</u>	Lbs.	711	557	475	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum, All.....	Bu.	40	110	143	137	151	168	8, 508	5, 889	6, 720
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	63	39	40	107	93	105	5, 690	3, 999	4, 725
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	53	43	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes...	-	390	441	423	-	-	-	-	-	-
For Beans.....	Bu.	255	295	285	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alone All Purposes.....	-	272	178	189	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked and Threshed...	Lbs.	257	172	-	1, 190	1, 465	-	297, 142	251, 980	-
Hay: All.....	Tons	1, 248	1, 130	1, 099	1. 02	. 96	1. 01	1, 266	1, 081	1, 111
Clover and Timothy <u>2/</u>	Tons	98	96	96	1. 12	1. 05	1. 10	110	101	106
Alfalfa.....	Tons	41	67	74	2. 11	1. 80	2. 05	87	121	152
Lespedeza.....	Tons	513	467	392	1. 05	. 85	. 85	539	397	333
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	71	79
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, 742	1, 150	3/ 40
Apples, Commercial <u>4/</u>	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, 220	1, 900	3/ 40
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	125	2. 5
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3. 3	2. 6	-

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1.

2/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

3/ 1955 crop almost a complete failure because of spring freeze. A few peaches maybe produced but prospective production is too small to warrant a forecast at this time.

4/ Estimates of commercial crop refer to total production in commercial apple areas.

IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION UP

As of July 1, North Carolina potato production is set at 6,720,000 bushels -- a 14 percent increase over the 1954 production. If this production is realized, it will give an average yield of 168 bushels per acre from the State's 40,000 acres. The State yield in 1954 was 151 bushels per acre; thus the increased production is attributed to higher yields per acre and a slightly higher acreage, as only 39,000 acres were harvested in 1954. The higher yields reflect favorable weather during the maturing season and during the peak harvest season.

SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION

EXPECTED TO BE UP

A sweet potato crop of 4,725,000 bushels for 1955 is estimated on the basis of July 1 reports from Tarheel growers. Such a crop would be 18 percent or 726,000 bushels above the 1954 production. Current prospects point to an average yield of 105 bushels per acre; if realized, this would be 12 bushels above 1954.

It is estimated that North Carolina growers will harvest 45,000 acres of sweet potatoes this year -- 2,000 acres above the 1954 harvested acreage but 11,000 acres below the ten year average acreage.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE DECLINES

Reports from North Carolina producers indicate that they expect to harvest 285,000 acres of soybeans for beans in 1955. Such an acreage would be 10,000 acres smaller than the 295,000 acres harvested in 1954, but nearly 12 percent above the 1944-53 average.

The acreage of soybeans planted alone this year at 423,000 -- four percent below the 441,000 acres planted in 1954. Unavailability of desired quantities of acceptable seed probably contributed to the reduction in seedings of soybeans for this year.

The first forecast of soybean production will be published in August.

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 10 MILLION POUNDS

Milk production on Tar Heel farms totaled 152 million pounds during June. This is 10 million pounds below May and 5 million pounds below June 1954.



Use of feed grain during April-September in the U. S. may be a little larger this year than last, but a record carryover of feed grains into 1955-56 is now practically assured. Indications are there will be around 38 million tons of old feed grains on hand next October 1.

GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS, JULY 1, 1955 ^{1/}

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Average 1944-53	1954	1955
<i>Thousand Bushels</i>						
Corn.....	13,788	9,905	9,520	748,628	989,833	938,034
Wheat.....	401	380	260	70,908	99,038	38,241
Oats.....	864	1,321	1,428	225,998	202,778	249,507
Barley.....	81	116	155	39,148	35,290	44,041
Rye.....	12	9	11	2,142	3,589	3,686
Soybeans.....	152	61	47	8,909	3,652	33,130

^{1/} Old Crop.

WEATHER SUMMARY, JUNE 1955

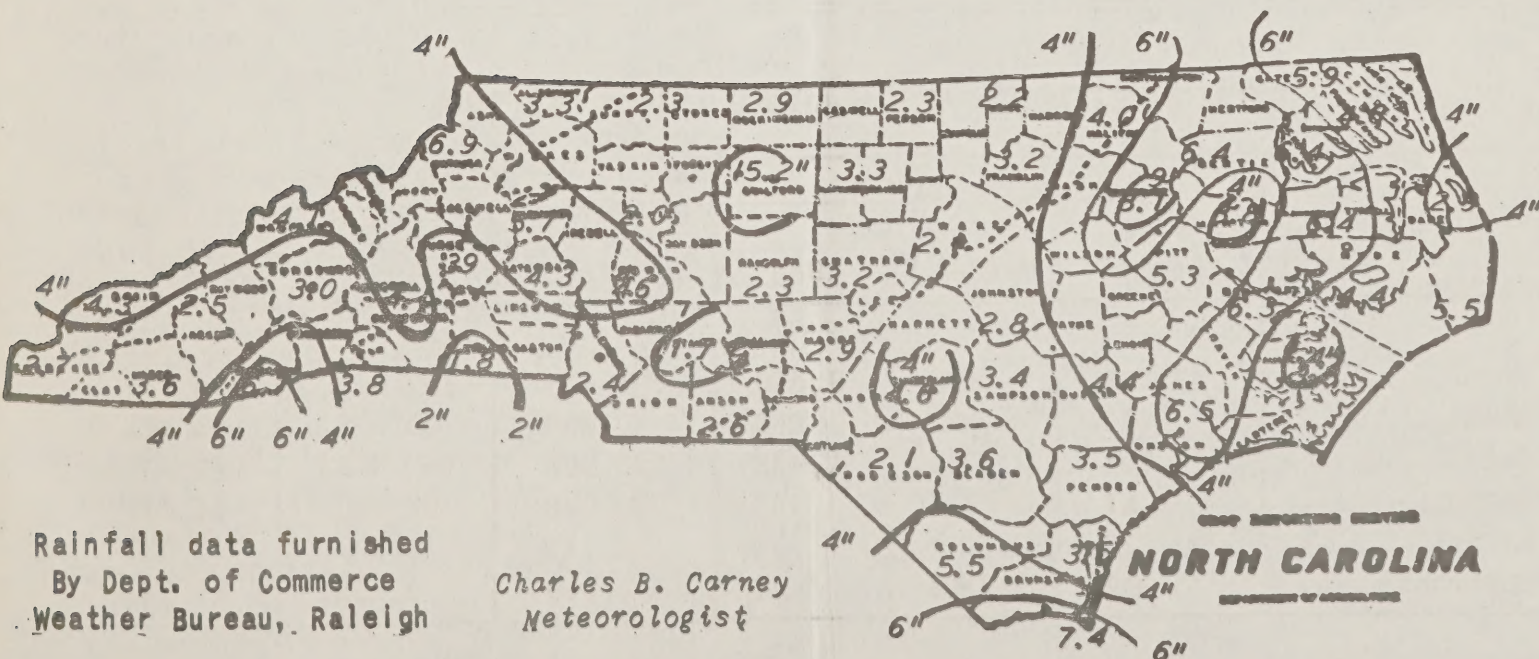
High pressure centered inland over the north central or northeastern states controlled the weather over North Carolina during a considerable part of the month of June. This caused the predominant airflow to be from cooler and drier regions, so that both temperature and precipitation averaged below long-term averages for the month. There was large proportion of fair weather, and not as much thunderstorm activity as is common during hotter June weather, but several periods of rather general cloudiness and rain prevented it from being an outstandingly dry month, and the low average temperatures reduced the need for moisture.

TEMPERATURES. This was one of the coolest Junes on record in North Carolina, in some places the coolest since 1887. Average temperatures over the State were about five degrees below long-term averages for June, making the month as unusual for the time of year as was the unusual May of 1954. There was, however, no uncommonly cold weather; not even the

highest mountain stations reported any freezing weather. The cool average was the result of temperatures consistently below normal, for almost every day of the month. Even on the few days when daytime temperatures climbed into the nineties, cool nights followed to give low average figures for the twenty-four hours.

PRECIPITATION. Rain fell frequently enough during June in North Carolina, but amounts were usually light. This situation, along with the cooler-than-usual weather, made the rain that did fall last longer than is the case when it comes down in heavy showers between hot, dry days. Many places had rain on at least half the days of the month, and yet had total amounts which fell considerably short of long-term average June amounts. Only a few places in the interior northeastern counties had notably greater-than-average amounts; this was due to one or two moderately heavy thundershowers which fell in that part of the State. Compared with the record-dry June of 1954, this June was very well watered.

INCHES OF RAINFALL, JUNE 1955



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
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SMALLEST N. C. WHEAT ACREAGE SINCE 1930

Reports from growers as of July 1, indicate an average per acre yield of 21.0 bushels of wheat in North Carolina. This is two bushels short of the record 23.0 bushel yield of 1951 but is considerably better than was expected earlier in the season after the heavy freeze on March 26.

Total production for 1955 is estimated at 6,804,000 bushels, which is 5.2 percent under the 1944-53 ten-year average, and 8.5 percent short of the 7,436,000 bushels produced last year.

Weather conditions for harvest have been very favorable both from the standpoint of rainfall and temperature. Fains were not prolonged enough in any area to materially delay harvest, and lodging has been less than normal.

The estimated 324,000 acres harvested this year, with the exception of the 265,000 acre crop for 1930, is the smallest since 1867.

SORGHUM SEEDINGS

AT NEW RECORD HIGH

The total of 143,000 acres of all sorghums seeded in North Carolina for harvest in 1955 is 30 percent above the previous record of 110,000 acres seeded in 1954.

Seedings of sorghums in the state have expanded rapidly in recent years, and this crop is already a major source of grain in a few southern Piedmont counties. As recently as 1951 there were only 50,000 acres of sorghums planted in the state. This crop has gained in favor due largely to its resistance to droughty conditions which have prevailed in varying degrees over the past four years. Acreage increases are reported for this year, not only in the southern Piedmont counties but in practically all areas of the state.

The first forecast of sorghum grain production will be published in August.